



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment

Cooperative Fire Protection - State Fire Assistance

An important element of the National Fire Plan is the coordination of federal, state, tribal, and local fire organizations to prevent, prepare for, and manage wildland fire across the landscape.

The State Fire Assistance program provides financial and technical support directly to the state forest fire protection organizations to enhance the firefighting capacity of state, local, and rural organizations. The Program also supports community-based hazard mitigation and an expanded national public service fire prevention program. State and local matching funds leverage the federal investment for cost-effective results. The Forest Service has an allocation of over \$81 million in National Fire Plan and base program funding for the State Fire Assistance program.

Program Elements

- **Preparedness** - Increases the ability of local, rural, and state organizations to provide coordinated fire protection and mobilization for fire suppression on both federal and non-federal lands.
- **Hazard Mitigation** - Supports state-led hazard mitigation activities in the wildland urban interface, focused on reducing property loss, decreasing fuels hazards, and increasing public awareness and citizen-driven solutions in rural communities.
- **Fire Prevention** - Delivers a nationwide fire prevention program through public service advertising, educational activities, product licensing, and corporate partnerships. The Smokey Bear program is part of this component, and FIREWISE is another prevention component. FIREWISE is a program that promotes wildland fire safety in the interface and fosters community-based responsibility through adult education, community action planning, fuels treatments, and landscaping. Twenty-four FIREWISE workshops for community and business leaders will be conducted over a three-year period. Participants will work to establish local FIREWISE standards to ensure a safer place for people to live. The first twelve workshops trained 953 participants from 425 communities and 45 states.

FY 2002

- Allocations that recognize risk and need are established for all funds through a cooperative process with the National Association of State Foresters.
 - In FY 2002 Preparedness funds will aid in fire readiness capability to enhance state and local organizations' efforts to meet their local jurisdictional responsibilities. Preparedness includes funding for availability of resources, project planning, and training and equipment for personnel.
 - Hazard mitigation projects will be funded through a competitive process and fall into three categories:

hazardous fuels reduction, information and education programs targeting mitigation and prevention, and risk reduction and hazard mitigation for homeowners and their communities. States are expected to reach over 3,000 communities in 2002.